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**DEC 06 2005****Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings,  
of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 1. (original) A method of tracking hits for a network file comprising the steps  
2 of:  
3 receiving a request for said network file from a requesting  
4 device;  
5 sending said network file to said requesting device in response  
6 to said request, said network file including an instruction to transmit an  
7 indicator subsequent to said requesting device receiving said network file;  
8 transmitting said indicator from said requesting device in  
9 response to receiving said network file; and  
10 processing said indicator to track said hits for said network file.

1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request includes  
2 receiving said request over the global communications network referred to as  
3 the Internet.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a  
2 network address of said requested network file within said indicator, so that  
3 said indicator can be identified as corresponding to said requested network  
4 file.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a  
2 network address of a remote processor within said instruction for navigating  
3 said indicator from said requesting device over a network to said remote  
4 processor, so that said indicator can be processed.

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1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of executing  
2 said instruction to transmit said indicator by an end-user browser at said  
3 requesting device.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of generating  
2 said request for said network file at said requesting device.

1 7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of embedding  
2 said instruction within said network file, such that said instruction is  
3 transparent to an end-user at said requesting device.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing said indicator  
2 includes counting said indicator for updating a tally of said hits for said  
3 network file.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request for said  
2 network file includes receiving said request at a proxy, said proxy having  
3 cache memory to service said request when said cache memory includes a  
4 cached copy of said requested network file, said cached copy having said  
5 instruction for transmitting said indicator from said requesting device  
6 subsequent to said requesting device receiving said cached copy.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing  
2 said instruction as programming that is compatible with JavaScript.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing  
2 said network file to include at least one of text information, image information,  
3 audio information and video information.

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1 12. (currently amended) A method of counting a number of accesses for  
2 cachable documents comprising the steps of:  
3 embedding executable code in each of a plurality of said  
4 cachable documents, said executable code ~~being associated with~~ including an  
5 instruction triggering transmissions of count-inducing messages from ~~clients~~  
6 client devices;  
7 sending said cachable documents to said client devices ~~clients~~  
8 in response to requests for said cachable documents received from any one  
9 of a plurality of said ~~clients~~ client devices;  
10 receiving said count-inducing messages transmitted from said  
11 ~~clients~~ client devices as responses to execution of said executable code upon  
12 reception of said cachable documents; and  
13 counting said accesses on a basis of receiving said  
14 count-inducing messages, said counting ~~being collective with respect to~~  
15 thereby updating a tally of said accesses by said plurality of ~~clients~~ client  
16 devices.

1 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 wherein receiving said  
2 count-inducing messages includes receiving one of said count-inducing  
3 messages for each said cachable document received by said ~~clients~~ client  
4 devices.

1 14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising a step of  
2 storing said cachable documents in Web proxies, said Web proxies being in  
3 communication with said ~~clients~~ client devices and at least one originating  
4 server via the Internet, said Web proxies being configured to store said  
5 cachable documents that are downloads from said originating server.

1 15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of  
2 implementing said executable code by browser software of said ~~clients~~ client  
3 devices, such that said count-inducing messages are transmitted from said  
4 ~~clients~~ client devices.

1 16. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of providing a  
2 Universal Resource Locator (URL) of a processor in said executable code to  
3 enable transmitting of said count-inducing messages from said browser  
4 software to said processor, said processor being operationally associated with  
5 said originating server.

1 17. (currently amended) A system for tracking hits over the Internet  
2 comprising:  
3 a store of a plurality of network files, each of said network files  
4 having a command to initiate a transmission of an identifier from any of a  
5 plurality of ~~clients~~ client devices upon a receipt of one of said network files by  
6 said ~~clients~~ client devices;  
7 programming accessible via each said ~~clients~~ client device, said  
8 programming being configured to request said network files and to transmit  
9 said identifier upon reception of one of said network files at said ~~clients~~ client  
10 device; and  
11 a file access counter responsive to receiving said identifiers from  
12 ~~clients~~ client devices as a basis for counting transfers of said network files to  
13 said ~~clients~~ client devices, said file access counter being configured such that  
14 counting is ~~collective with respect to~~ updates a tally of said transfers of said  
15 network files to said plurality of ~~clients~~ client devices.

1 18. (currently amended) The system of claim 17 wherein said command  
2 includes programmable code embedded within each said network file, said  
3 programmable code being configured to execute said transmissions of said  
4 identifiers upon said receipt of said network files by said ~~clients~~ client devices.

1 19. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said programmable code  
2 includes an Internet address of said file access counter, said network files  
3 including World Wide Web pages.

1 20. (original) The system of claim 17 wherein said network files include  
2 cached copies of Internet files, said store of network files being a proxy Web  
3 server.